

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1, 3, 12 and 17 are amended. Claims 1-21 are pending in the application. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application, as amended, are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3, 12 and 17 are amended to correct minor informalities. These amendments do not change the scope of the claims.

Claims 1-21 were rejected as being anticipated by Pinkston, II et al. (US 6378009). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 is directed to a keyboard video mouse (KVM) switch for a plurality of computers to share a plurality of manipulating devices with different connection agreements. One key feature of the KVM switch is that it converts first electrical signals from manipulating devices into standard packets, routing the standard packets to the computers, and converting the standard packets into second electrical signals for the computers. The first electrical signals comply with the connection agreements of the source manipulating devices, and the second electrical signals comply with connection agreements of the connected computers, but they are converted to/from standard packets that are routed by the switch device.

Claim 1 recites: “a plurality of first interfaces connected to the manipulating devices to receive a plurality of first electrical signals, where each of the electrical signals complies with the connection agreement of its source manipulating device and each of the first interfaces has a first converting device to convert the first electrical signals into standard packets; a switch device, which arranges the routing of the standard packets between the manipulating devices and the computers according to a path selection setting; and a plurality of second interfaces connected to the computers, where each of the second interfaces has a second converting device to convert the standard packets received from the switch device into a second electrical signal complying with the connection agreement of the connected computer.”

Claim 12 is directed to a computer switching method for a plurality of computers to share a plurality of manipulating devices with different connection agreements. It uses standard packets in a way similar to claim 1. Claim 12 recites: “receiving first electrical signals of the manipulating devices, ... converting each of the first electrical signals into standard packets; routing the standard packets between the manipulating devices and the computers; and converting each of the standard packets into a second electrical signal complying with the connection agreement of the computer of its path destination.”

Pinkston does not disclose the claimed first interfaces, switch device and second interfaces. In the Office Action, the Examiner equated "Figs. 1 and 2, 120a-120n" with the claimed plurality of first interfaces, and equated "user interfaces, Figs. 1 and 2" with the claimed plurality of second interfaces (see page 2 of the Office Action). The applicant respectfully submits that such a comparison is inappropriate. The claimed plurality of first interfaces are connected to the manipulation devices, whereas elements "120a-120n" in Pinkston are computers and are not connected to the manipulation devices (the user station). Further, the claimed plurality of second interfaces are connected to the computers, whereas the "user interface" in Pinkston are connected to the user station, not the computers.

Even if Pinkston is compared to the present claim 1 in other ways, it still does not disclose or suggest the claimed first interfaces, switch device and second interfaces. Assume that the user interface 102A, 102B, etc. in Pinkston are compared to the claimed first interfaces connected to the manipulating devices and the computer interfaces 104A, 104B, 104C etc. are compared to the claimed second interfaces connected to the computers. Fig. 3 illustrates details of the switch 200 in Fig. 2; as shown in Fig. 3, the switch 200 uses a communication bus (CBUS) 302 to transmit data between the peripherals (keyboard, mouse, monitor) and the computers. The computers are coupled to the communication bus via communications bus interface (CBI) 310A, and the peripherals are connected to the CBUS via CBI 310C. There is no disclosure of the CBUS transmitting standard packets, or the CBI 310C converting signals from the peripherals to standard packets, or that the CBI converting standard packets to signals for the computer. Pinkston simply states that "CBIs serve to transmit and receive switch information and peripheral data from the CBUS using data transfer practices known to those skilled in the art. However, the protocol used in data transfers is typically a proprietary protocol." Col. 3, lines 40-44.

The Pinkston system does use packet format in one place, but it is between the network interface circuit 330 and the external network. The packets are for communicating with a remote terminal over the network. "Information from a remote terminal is transferred on a network in a packet where the switch information in the packet uses a standardized management protocol. When the packet is received by a network interface card in the peripheral switch the switch information is translated to a proprietary protocol." (Pinkston, Abstract.) As shown in Fig. 3, the signals that are routed are CBUS signals rather than standard packets. Thus, Pinkston does not

disclose a switch device which “arranges the routing of the standard packets between the manipulating devices and the computers” as required by claim 1.

For the reasons stated above, claims 1 and 12 are patentable over Pinkston. Claims 2-11 and 13-21 depend from claims 1 or 12 and are therefore also patentable.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application, as amended, are requested. If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at the Los Angeles, California telephone number (213) 625-5076 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance.

If there are any fees due in connection with the filing of this response or deficient in fees, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-3531.

Respectfully submitted,

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